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THE MEDICS

--From the N. Y. Times, Jan 5, 1945.

The "medic" is a must in any fighting force. He is likely to combine the functions of Kipling's Gunga Din, Florence Nightingale, the Good Samaritan and the most skillful surgeon science has produced. He frequently does so at the cost of his own life. Unarmed stretcher-bearers seek out the wounded where the shells are still striking. Because they know that time is of the essence, they are always in a hurry. Sometimes a complicated operation has to be performed in a fox-hole. During the Metz offensive a 19-year-old medical aide saved a doughboy's life by cutting a fountain-pen tube into his throat with a pocket knife. But they try hard to get the victim to the nearest hospital. Maybe it is a blasted barn or an open cellar. It may be a tent over the brow of the next hill, with the surgeons operating under enemy fire. At Bastogne two or three surgeons had to handle 800 patients with nothing to dull their pain but cognac. Everybody cheered when five more surgeons got through by plane and glider.

There is little glory in the Medical Corps. It is just hard, dirty work and mighty dangerous. The Red Cross seems to mean little to the enemy. He has bombed hospital tents from Anzio to Aachen. These medics are tough, but among the torn and dying men learn to be tender, too. They shun glory, but they have their pride. They are proud to have saved 97 out of every hundred wounded. They are proud that their miracle drugs and blood banks send from 50 to 80 back to fight again. They are proud because nobody in our whole vast Army, not even the foremost combat crew or the deadliest flying wing, has done a finer job than the Medical Corps.

THE CRITICAL NURSE SHORTAGE

"Our battle casualties are mounting daily," Major General Norman T. Kirk, The Surgeon General, stated at Mayor La Guardia's Nurse Recruiting Meeting in New York City, on January 4. "Not only has this increased the nursing problem overseas," he continued, "but it increases the problem of taking care of those casualties who are being returned from overseas."

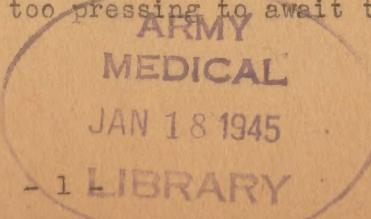
"Last month over thirty thousand wounded and sick were returned to the United States by airplane and hospital ship. We expect that this number will be even greater this month. These men all need nursing care. We had foreseen this emergency. Since last October the Army Medical Department has been stressing the need for 10,000 additional nurses. We sent a personal appeal to each one of the 27,000 nurses that the War Manpower Commission told us were available for duty. Our returns from that appeal were pitiful. We received 760 answers and signed up 227 nurses from that group.

"This same shortage of nurses is evident in the Zone of the Interior. On January 2 Percy Jones General Hospital had 3699 hospital and convalescent patients. There were 85 army nurses there to take care of them. That is a ratio of 1 nurse to 43 patients. In addition to the army nurses there were 33 civilian nurses, 23 nurse's aides and 36 WAC technicians. Including the civilian nurses, and nurse's aides, the ratio is still 1 to 26.

"The situation has grown so critical that suggestions have been made that the Army draft nurses through Congressional action. It looks as if this will be necessary to meet the immediate demand for nurses."

* * *

Forty-eight hours later, in his message to Congress, President Roosevelt said, "Since volunteering has not produced the number of nurses required, I urge that the Selective Service Act be amended to provide for the induction of nurses into the armed forces. The need is too pressing to await the outcome of further efforts at recruiting."



IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

War always spotlights the dramatic role played by surgery and medicine. Less frequently does some unusual situation shift the spotlight to the highly important role played by preventive medicine as, for instance, when our troops landed in the Philippines. There they found that the civilian population had suffered woefully for lack of a preventive medicine program under Japanese domination. Sanitation had deteriorated. Food was inadequate. Great numbers of the people were suffering from tropical ulcers, yaws, intestinal diseases and vitamin deficiency diseases. They were endangered by cholera, smallpox and typhoid fever. Now, with the return of our troops, preventive medicine is again being practiced in the islands. Carrying out plans prepared by the Civil Public Health Division of the Preventive Medicine Service, Office of The Surgeon General, sanitation is being restored. The people are being immunized against diseases. Health offices have been re-established in the majority of communities wrested from the Japs and dental clinics, dispensaries and hospitals have been established.

Colonel Sigafous Appointed Deputy Director Training Division

Lieutenant Colonel Rolland B. Sigafous, MC, of Tacoma, Wash., who was recently awarded the Legion of Merit for his outstanding work in training and equipping the medical units for the entire new Chinese First Army, has been appointed Deputy Director of the Training Division, Operations Service, Office of The Surgeon General.

Colonel Sigafous received his M.D. degree from the University of Nebraska in 1937. He entered the Army as a first lieutenant in 1939, and was promoted to captain in 1940, to major in 1942, and to lieutenant colonel in 1943.

Colonel Sigafous replaces Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Moseley, MC, assigned overseas.

ARMY AURAL REHABILITATION

Before a deafened soldier can be fitted properly with a hearing aid he must have a custom fitted ear piece to which the aid can be attached. Until now these ear pieces were manufactured by commercial concerns and some delay was involved due to the necessity of packing and transmitting the cast and receiving the ear piece by mail. Now, however, ear pieces of clear acrylic or lucite are to be manufactured in the three Army hospitals for the deafened -- a step which means the soldier gets his hearing aid about a week sooner.

Each soldier-patient with impaired hearing is scientifically tested to ascertain precisely which hearing aid is best for him. Since variations have been found even in aids of the same model, a stock is maintained at the hospital so the soldier receives the aid which proved most satisfactory for him when tested. In addition to equipping the men with hearing aids, instruction is given in lip reading and speech correction, if necessary.

A great many cases of deafness among soldiers which passed undetected at the time of induction have since been detected through the modern scientific methods now in use by the Army Medical Department. These deafened, as well as those with service-incurred deafness, are being rehabilitated at Deshon General Hospital, Butler, Pa., Hoff General Hospital, Santa Barbara, Calif., and Bordon General Hospital, Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Colonel Brooks Grant Dies

Colonel Brooks Collins Grant, MC, popular in Texas and in Army medical circles, died of a cerebral hemorrhage, January 1, at his home in San Antonio, Texas. Funeral services were held January 4, at the National Cemetery, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Born September 10 1890, at Denton, Tex., Colonel Grant attended Fort Worth University and Texas Christian University. He received his M.D. degree from the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery in 1915, returned to Texas to practice medicine and surgery and was for several years County Health Officer in Big Lake, Reagan Co.

Colonel Grant entered the Army as a 1st lieutenant in 1917 and was graduated from the Army Medical School, Washington, D. C. in 1920. During the war he served as Commanding Officer of the 34th Evacuation Hospital at Camp Barkley, Tex., from 1941 to 1942 and was Corps Surgeon of the 13th Corps at Providence, R. I., from 1942 to 1943. While on an overseas assignment in the European theater last summer he became ill, and in October entered Walter Reed General Hospital as a patient. At the time of his death he was on sick leave for the Christmas Holidays.

Colonel Grant is survived by his widow, Mrs. Ruth Grant and a daughter, Miss Gladys Grant, who reside at 142 Harrigan Ct., San Antonio, Tex.

HEALTH OF THE ARMY IN U. S.

During December the incidence of acute respiratory diseases in Army installations within the United States rose slightly, The Surgeon General's Office reports. The present incidence is much lower than in December 1943, when the influenza epidemic was in progress. In fact it will probably prove to be lower than any previous December rate in a number of years, although final data are not yet available.

A seasonal increase in pneumonia, mumps and scarlet fever is under way. For none of these diseases is the increase excessive. Measles incidence has not shown the expected increase, nor has meningococcal meningitis. The indications are that meningitis will be considerably less prevalent this year than last. The incidence of all diseases is lower than for December of the two preceding years but slightly higher than the December average for the period 1930-39.

NEW ASSIGNMENTS, OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

LIEUTENANT COLONEL BURGESS L. GORDON, MC, of Philadelphia, Pa., formerly at Army Ground and Service Forces Redistribution Station, Asheville, N.C., assigned to Hospital Division, Operations Service.

MAJOR WILLIAM H. F. NEWMAN, MC, of Delaware, N.Y., formerly at the Boston Port of Embarkation, assigned to Hospital Division, Operations Service.

MAJOR GUSTAVE J. DAMMIN, MC, of New York, N.Y., formerly with the Army Epidemiology Board, at Johns Hopkins University, assigned to Laboratories Division, Preventive Medicine Service.

MAJOR ALDEAN S. INGRAM, MC, of Atlanta, Ga., formerly at Civil Affairs Staging Area, Fort Ord, Calif., and recently stationed at Navy School of Military Government, Princeton, N.J., assigned to Civil Public Health Division, Preventive Medicine Service.

CAPTAIN RALPH E. CROSS, MAC, of Johnson City, Tenn., formerly at Army Ground and Service Forces Redistribution Station, Asheville, N.C., assigned to Stock Control Division, Supply Service.

FIRST LIEUTENANT MARTHA J. NORRIS, PTA, of Roistown, Md., formerly at Tilton General Hospital, Fort Dix, N.J., assigned to Military Personnel Division, Personnel Service.

FIRST LIEUTENANT JOHN W. MEIGS, MC, of New York, N.Y., formerly at Veteran's Administrative Facility, Washington, D. C., assigned to Occupational Health Division, Preventive Medicine Service.

DEPARTURES, OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

MAJOR KENNETH E. HUDSON, MC, of Oklahoma City, Okla., formerly Military Personnel Division, Personnel Service, assigned to 8th Service Command, Army Ground and Service Forces Redistribution Station, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

CAPTAIN JOSEPH P. DAY, JR., MAC, of South Action, Mass., formerly Hospital Division Operations Service, assigned to 9th Service Command, Hoff General Hospital, Santa Barbara, Calif.

CAPTAIN SIGH W. VOLLEY, MC, of Waco, Tex., formerly Military Personnel Division, Personnel Service, assigned to Medical Replacement Pool, Medical Field Service School, Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

(Continued) Departures. Office of The Surgeon General

CAPTAIN HAROLD A. TARRANT, MC, of Wilmington, Del., formerly Occupational Health Division, Preventive Medicine Service, assigned to 3rd Service Command, Philadelphia Signal Depot.

FIRST LIEUTENANT WARREN H. LASHER, MAC, of Leonia, New Jersey, formerly Military Personnel Division, Personnel Service, assigned to 6th Service Command, Percy Jones General Hospital, Battle Creek, Mich.

COLONEL LIBASCI AWARDED BRONZE STAR

Colonel Alfonso M. Libasci, MC, of Brooklyn, N.Y., has been awarded the Bronze Star for "meritorious service in planning medical activities in support of the first Philippine operation."

Colonel Libasci was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. He received his M.D. from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York City, in 1931. He was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the medical reserve corps in 1933 and transferred to the regular army in 1934 where he was successively promoted to captain in 1936, major in 1942, lieutenant colonel in 1943 and colonel in 1944.

Colonel Duncan Now Consultant

Colonel G. G. Duncan, MC, formerly Chief of Medical Service at Thomas M. England General Hospital, Atlantic City, N.J., has been assigned as Consultant in Medicine, Headquarters, Second Service Command, Governor's Island, N. Y. He replaces Lieutenant Colonel Herman Blumgart, MC, assigned overseas.

VETERINARY OFFICERS AT SCHOOL OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT

There are now 18 veterinary officers on duty with the School of Military Government at Charlottesville, Va.

Veteran Reorientation Problems

The American Management Association at its Marketing Conference held in New York City this month, was given a glimpse into the problems of the veteran returning to civilian work by Colonel William C. Menninger, MC, Director of Neuropsychiatry Consultants Division of the Office of The Surgeon General.

Speaking on "Reorienting the Returning Veteran to Sales Work," Colonel Menninger told his audience how to help the man change from military to civilian thinking, which, he pointed out, is "more than a matter of changing clothes."

"He will have to live in a new world -- that of a civilian," said Colonel Menninger, "without the support or the direction or the public understanding that he enjoyed in the Army. He is going to be giving up very tangible forms of security that he had established. Only as he is able to re-find this sense of security... can the man give up being a veteran and again become a full-fledged citizen."

Only a small percentage of returning veterans will show serious difficulty in readjusting but because of the size of the Army the actual number may be considerable. To help these men return to their civilian roles he suggested that executives give special consideration to "the selection method, the development of training and orientation techniques, the recognition of the importance of frequent counseling, and, finally, the provision of compensations."

SKIN DIPHTHERIA

Lieutenant Colonel F. R. Dieuaide, Chief of the Tropical Disease Treatment Branch, Office of The Surgeon General, who recently returned from a three month's visit in three Pacific Theaters, reported a small epidemic of skin diphtheria in the New Hebrides which was brought under early control.

It is thought the epidemic arose from carriers, the bacilli usually being carried in arm or leg wounds from which the organisms could be transferred readily to skin lesions in other persons or to the throats of susceptible soldiers.

(Skin Diphtheria, Continued.)

Individuals afflicted with this rare disease usually do not show serious effects, said Colonel Dieuaide, although neuritis sometimes develops and there are occasional heart disturbances. The symptoms generally disappear if the patient is put at rest, the lesions properly cleaned up, and a sterile, wet dressing applied. Penicillin has been used but it is not necessary, he said, unless other bacteria are present. A small dose of antitoxin is enough to protect most patients from any serious consequence to themselves.

The great importance of skin diphtheria, Colonel Dieuaide explained, lies in the danger that it may cause epidemics of ordinary diphtheria in soldiers, 45 to 50 percent of whom are susceptible. The Medical Department has therefore taken prompt and effective steps to control the spread of the milder disease.

COLONEL WILLIAM BISHPAM DIES

Colonel William Newbold Bishpam, MC, retired, died at the age of sixty-nine on January first, at the University Hospital, Baltimore, Md. Burial took place at Arlington Cemetery, Va.

Colonel Bishpam, an authority on malaria, was born in Warrenton, Va., and lived for many years in Baltimore, Md. He received his M.D. degree from the University of Maryland in 1897.

He entered the Army during the Spanish American War and at its close was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Medical Corps. During World War I he was the commanding officer of Camp Greenleaf, Ga., and from 1919 to 1920 was in charge of Lovell General Hospital, Fort Sheridan, Ill. At the time of his retirement in 1939 he was Surgeon of the Third Service Command.

Colonel Bishpam was a member of the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons for twenty years, and a member of the American Medical Society. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Isabel F. Bishpam, who resides at 3700 North Charles St., Baltimore, Md.

Returning Veteran will be Different

Soldiers who have been in combat two years will have aged ten years and their families and friends must be prepared to accept a difference in these returning veterans, Colonel William C. Menninger, head of the Neuropsychiatry Division of the Army Medical Department, said last week (Jan 11) in the Laity Lecture of the New York Academy of Medicine.

There is little time to spare for communities to start making preparations for receiving the thousands of soldiers who will have to make readjustments, and serious ones, in adapting themselves to civilian life, Col. Menninger declared.

He emphasized that in discussing this subject of the return of the nation's Armed Forces he did not mean to imply that the war will soon be over. But in the meantime, he stressed, the problem must be faced of getting the soldiers back into a harmonious relationship with family and community.

"In addition to medical help," he said, "many veterans, perhaps most, will need other counsel. They will need 'reorientation' to civilian life, to the apparent business-as-usual status in the community, and to the family. This same counsel might well provide advice to wives and parents to help them understand his problems, to aid them in catching up with his premature aging, and be prepared to advise and cooperate with him in his plans."

"We know that many of these men will have difficulty in obtaining a job. No doubt the government can and will help, but fundamentally, men belong to a community -- your town, my town. They belong to it and it should be the community's responsibility to organize a plan of survey, a counseling system, and an employee placement bureau."

Colonel Menninger related how Major General Norman T. Kirk, Surgeon General of the Army, gave the psychiatric program of the Army marked impetus by increasing the staff tremendously and making neuropsychiatry an integral part of the entire medical and surgical services in combat and in this country.

CONSULTATION SERVICE PSYCHIATRIC CONFERENCE

The first Consultation Service Psychiatric Conference was held at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., January 8, 9, and 10. In addition to the consultation service psychiatrists, representatives from each of the Army training centers also attended.

The purpose of the conference was threefold: to discuss common problems and procedures; to standardize techniques and procedures in the various consultation services; and to better acquaint the consultation service psychiatrists with recent and contemplated changes in War Department policy. Discussions emphasized prevention rather than treatment.

Officers from The Surgeon General's Office who presided at the conference included: Colonel William C. Menninger, MC, Director of the Neuropsychiatry Consultants Division, Lieutenant Colonel Norman Q. Brill, MC, Chief of the Psychiatry Branch, and Captain John W. Appel, MC, Chief of the Mental Hygiene Branch.

Colonel Long to Epidemiology Division

Lieutenant Colonel A. P. Long, MC, formerly Director of the Laboratories Division, Office of The Surgeon General has been assigned as Acting Director, Epidemiology Division, Preventive Medicine Service.

MAJOR DAMMIN DIRECTOR OF LABORATORIES DIVISION

Major Gustave J. Dammin, MC, has been appointed Director of the Laboratories Division. He was formerly with the Army Epidemiology Board at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

Chinese Flight Surgeon Here

Colonel Joseph Shiang-min Lee, Flight Surgeon, Chinese Army, recently visited the Office of The Surgeon General to confer with officers of the Training Division. Colonel Lee, who is a member of the faculty of the Chinese Army Medical College, Anshun, China, received his military medical training in this country, graduating as a Surgeon from the School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph Field, Tex., in 1933, and graduating from the Medical Field Service School, Carlisle Barracks, Pa., in 1934.

Colonel Lee is now visiting Medical Department training installations to observe the recent advances which have been made in the military and professional training program of the Medical Department.

"I WALK AGAIN"

A real New Year's letter, postmarked January 1, 1945, was received by Major General Norman T. Kirk, The Surgeon General, from Private Milton Kaufman, of Brooklyn, N.Y., a former patient at Lawson General Hospital. The letter, which speaks for itself, follows:

"I have just walked up three flights of stairs to my apartment. This wasn't the first time I have had to do this but today was a special occasion. Today marked the anniversary of the day I had been wounded. One year ago today at the Cassino front, during a heavy counter-artillery barrage, I was seriously wounded which necessitated the amputation of both my legs above the knee.

"When I discovered my loss I felt completely hopeless but today, one year later, I realize how wrong I was then. I can't do all the things that I did before but I can walk and get around on my own."

"During my stay in hospitals overseas, I underwent four major operations and countless blood transfusions which saved my life. Upon my return to the United States, I was informed that I needed two more operations before I could be fitted with the proper prostheses. Weeks and months have passed by since then and with daily attendance at the Physiotherapy Department for exercises -- the eventful day neared when I would take my first steps on artificial legs.

("I Walk Again", Continued)

"It isn't an easy job, but with faith, patience, comfort and assurance of loved ones, it can be done. I have seen other boys in the hospital accomplish the same difficult task, because I am sure they believed as I do.

"Our Medical Corps today is the best in the world. Their job is a hard one regardless of whether they work in tents at the front lines or in immaculate, well furnished buildings in the United States. They are saving thousands and thousands of lives with their skill and attention.

"To them, I reserve the right to say 'I Walk Again'."

Army Neuropsychiatric Nursing Schools

Neuropsychiatric nursing schools are now in operation in five service commands and within the next few months will be established in all service commands in the United States. These schools offer a three-month, on-the-job training course under the country's leading neuropsychiatrists. Enrollment is made up of Army nurses who volunteer for the training and a certificate of neuropsychiatric nursing is awarded each on completion of the course. At least two neuropsychiatry nurses are assigned to each general hospital in this country and to the staff of each general hospital organized here for service abroad.

RECENT PROMOTIONS, MEDICAL CORPS OFFICERS

Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel

EDWARD AUGUSTINE ABBEY, New Haven, Conn.
MARSHALL STEWART BROWN, JR., New York, N.Y.
JOHN PERRY HUBBARD, Milton, Mass.
EATON WESLEY BENNETT, Troy, Tenn.
HUGH RICHAMOND GILMORE, JR., Emlenton, Pa.
WOLCOTT LOWREE ETIENNE, Berwyn, Md.
WYLIE BELVIN FAW, JR., Cambridge, Md.
COLVIN WOOD SALLEY, Baytown, Tex.
HROLFE READ ZIEGLER, Rochester, N.Y.
GEORGE N. SCHUEMANN, Louisville, Ky.
JOSEPH WASSON GALE, Madison, Wis.
HENRY GEORGE HOLLENBERG, Little Rock, Ark.
GRANVILLE SINCLAIR DELANERE, Marysville, Calif.
WILLIAM WARREN ROE, JR., Los Angeles, Calif.
NORMAN LINDSAY HIGINBOTHAM, New York, N.Y.

Major to Lieutenant Colonel

RALPH LLEWELLYN COX, Cleveland, Ohio
GEORGE OUTHIT EATON, Baltimore, Md.
PAUL GEORGE ISKE, Indianapolis, Ind.
CHARLES EDWARD ENGELHART, Edgewood, Pa.
CYRIL VINCENT CRANE, Chicago, Ill.
CLIFTON JENNINGS DERRICK, West Palm Beach, Fla.
GAYLORD ROSS ANDRE, Lisbon, Iowa.
ORIEN THOMAS GOWER, JR., Cordele, Ga.
FREDERICK DANIEL SUTTFIELD, Washington, D.C.
SEYMOUR FISHER, Springfield, Ill.
RAYMOND ELWOOD TENNANT, Seattle, Wash.
ABRAHAM FEINGOLD, Brooklyn, N.Y.
DONALDSON WRIGHT KINGSLEY, Hastings, Nebr.
WILLIAM PERRINE VAN WAGENEN, Rush, N.Y.
WILLIAM COOLEY, JR., Peoria, Ill.
DAVID ROBERT SACKS, San Antonio, Tex.
GEORGE FREDERICK WOLLGAST, Denver, Colorado.
JOHN MITCHELL WILLIS, JR., Philadelphia, Pa.
BENJAMIN GLADSTONE SHAFIROFF, Brooklyn, N.Y.
CHARLES ANDREW LANDSHOP, Jersey City, N.J.
CHARLES AARON AULT, JR., Dallas, Tex.
HARRY CLYDE BLAIR, Portland, Ore.
THOMAS STRICKEN EDDLEMAN, Yazoo City, Miss.
WILLIAM FIELDING SPILLER, Galveston, Tex.
HARRY ALFRED LOTMAN, Lincoln, Nebr.

PROMOTIONS, OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel

JOSEPH FRANCIS SADUSK, JR., MC, of New Haven Conn., U.S. Typhus Commission.

Captain to Major

JACK M. EVANS, MC, of Kenmore, N.Y., Laboratories Division, Preventive Medicine Service.

First Lieutenant to Captain

MYLES H. DEWHURST, MAC, of Fort Worth Tex., Issue Division, Supply Service.
REGINALD R. QUARTON, MAC, of Detroit, Mich., Stock Control Division, Supply Service.

WILLIAM E. VOSSEN, MAC, of Lanham, Md., Office Service Division, Administrative Service.

ROBERT E. WILSON, MAC, of East Cleveland, Ohio, Military Personnel Division, Personnel Service.

MAJOR MAYS APPOINTED OVERSEAS CONSULTANT

Major John R. S. Mays, MC, of Baltimore, Md., has been appointed Consultant in Neuropsychiatry for the Burma Theater of Operations. Prior to his overseas assignment, Major Mays was chief of the Neuropsychiatric Section at McGuire General Hospital, Richmond, Va.